

Message Text

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11

ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 RSR-01 /093 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7103

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH/MX

SUBJ: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: SAFETY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

REF: STATE 134636

1. SUMMARY: BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH CFE AND INEN OFFICIALS, EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED THAT LAGUNA VERDE PROJECT IS PROCEEDING AT APPARENTLY SATISFACTORY RATE. MOST PROPITIOUS TIME FOR INITIAL VISIT BY AEC ADVISER WOULD BE SOMETIME DURING SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN RESTEL, EMBOFF CALLED ON INGWM JUAN EIBENSCHUTZ, DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMS IN FEDERAL

ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ANE ON DR. ALBA ANDRADE, CHAIRMAN, AND DR. CARLOS VELEZ, OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (INEN).

3. ACCORDING TO EIBENSCHUTZ, EXCAVATION FOR LAGUNA VERDE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. CFE HOPES TO OPEN BIDS FOR CIVIL CONSTRUCTION ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 7; CONTRACTOR WOULD BE SELECTED IN SEPTEMBER WITH CIVIL CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER. MEANWHILE, CFE ITSELF IS GOING AHEAD WITH MUD MAT PREPARATION. EIBENSCHUTZ STATED THAT GENERAL ELECTRIC IS ON SCHEDULE WITH CONSTRUCTION

OF PRESSURE VESSEL. HOWEVER, OVERALL ENGINEERING CONTRACT (BURNS AND ROE, CONTRACTOR) IS 4-7 MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE. PART OF
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THIS DELAY IS ADMITTEDLY FAULT OF CFE. OTHER SCHEDULES IN PART

DEPEND UPON COMPLETION OF BURNS AND ROE STUDIES, SO DATES FOR CIVIL CONSTRUCTION, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD BE REGARDED AS TENTATIVE.

EIBENSCHUTZ SAID THAT PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR LAGUNA VERDE TO BE "ON LINE" IN MARCH OR APRIL 1977 WITH COMMERCIAL OPERATION COMMENCING IN JULY 1977. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT MEETING THESE DEADLINES IS PROBLEMATIC.

4. IAEA MISSION (PARA 1 REFTTEL) SPENT APPROXIMATELY 3 WEEKS IN MEXICO IN JUNE DURING WHICH THEY DISCUSSED WITH INEN OFFICIALS A FIRST DRAFT OF PSAR (PRELIMINARY SAFETY ANALYSIS REPORT) FOR LAGUNA VERDE. FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSIONS, CFE REFINED PSAR AND PRESENTED TO INEN DURING FIRST PART OF JULY A FORMAL REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THAT REQUEST, CFE SUBMITTED SECOND DRAFT OF PSAR. INEN (WHICH HAS AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PSAR) IS NOW STUDYING THAT PLAN AND ANTICIPATES FORMULATION OF FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TO PRESENT TO CFE BY END OF JULY. DR. VELEZ STATED THAT INEN PLANS TO GRANT PROVISIONAL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT TO CFE AROUND NOVEMBER (NOTE GENERAL COINCIDENCE OF THIS DATE WITH THAT GIVEN BY EIBENSCHUTZ). THIS PROVISIONAL PERMIT WOULD BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR, DURING WHICH TIME CFE COULD PROCEED WITH CIVIL CONSTRUCTION.

5. CONCERNING PERSONNEL WORKING ON REGULATORY ASSIGNMENTS, INEN OFFICERS STATED THAT THERE IS A SMALL GROUP OF ABOUT 15 PERSONS WORKING ON SITING, ELEMENTS, MECHANICS, NUCLEAR DESIGN, QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND INSTRUMENT CONTROL. THIS GROUP IS FURTHER BROKEN DOWN INTO 5 COMMITTEES WITH SOME DUPLICATION OF PARTICIPANTS AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES. DR. VELEZ PROMISED TO SEND NAMES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AND CURRICULA VITAE WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO ARA/MEX IF AND WHEN RECEIVED.

6. INEN RETAINS OVERALL COORDINATING AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL OVER SAFETY AND REGULATORY MATTERS. THIS AUTHORITY APPEARS TO BE EXERCISED IN RATHER INFORMAL FASHION WHICH IS NOT UNUSUAL GIVEN THE SMALL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED. INEN HAS CONTRACTED INSTITUTES OF ENGINEERING AND GEOPHYSICS AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAM) FOR THOSE PARTS OF PROGRAM DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENT, SEISMOLOGY, METEOROLOGY, AND HYDROLOGY.

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7. CONCERNING TIMING OF INITIAL VISIT BY AEC EXPERT, INEN FEELS THAT ANY TIME DURING MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WOULD BE SUITABLE. IT WAS AGREED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITS BY MEXICAN STAFF MEMBERS (PARA 3, STATE 103524) WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THAT INITIAL VISIT.
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